5th West Africa Internet Governance Forum 2012 – Freetown, Sierra Leone

2nd – 4th July 2012

**West Africa Internet Governance Forum, Communiqué**

**Theme: "*Promoting the Multi-stakeholder Model for further***

***Internet Development in Africa*"**

We, the participants at the 5th West Africa Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF), organized by the WAIGF Consortium, Sierra Leone IGF, ISOC-SL and the Government of Sierra Leone held at the Miatta Conference Hall, Freetown. (Sierra Leone), from 2nd to 4th July 2012

**Recalling** that this is the fifth session of the West Africa Internet Governance Forum;

**Recalling** that previous West Africa Internet Governance Forums had concluded that good Internet governance is critical for sustainable ICT development and social-economic impact;

**Recalling** that at the third and fourth, regional West Africa Internet Governance Forums in Dakar, Senegal and Lagos, Nigeria the Forum discussed issues such as access, security, critical Internet resources, privacy, cloud computing, and openness, in the region;

**Recalling** the continued commitment and support given by international organizations such as ICANN, ISOC, Diplo Foundation , FOSSFA, UNECA ,UNIFORUM ZACR, for the success of the WAIGF, and participation by regional stakeholders in the forums;

**Recalling** that in the last forums held, we have continued working under the same theme to emphasize the need for the multi-stakeholder participation in the IGF process within the region;

**Recalling** that the WAIGF supports the multi-stakeholder model/approach in governing the Internet in the sub-region and globally.

**The forum agrees and makes the following recommendations:**

1.  On **Internet Governance for Development**, we must create an enabling environment for greater participation between and amongst regional governments, civil society, academia, private sector and members of the public on how the internet can drive Millennium and regional development goals.

    Specifically;

    - To promote capacity building and development of the general public on Internet related topics, and develop a framework that enables individuals to be better informed on issues such as e-learning, e-health, e-agriculture etc, which will aid development.

    - To encourage the use of cloud-based computing methodologies, minimize the cost and improve the scalability of development initiatives

2.  On **Openness, Security and Privacy**, to encourage governments to ratify ECOWAS legislations on personal data protection and ensure that in the fight against cyber-crime, governments in the region adopt measures and legislation for cyber-security in line with international standards and best practice. In addition;

- To create more awareness and advocacy for ICT security both within the public and private domains.

- To develop a framework for more training in IPV6 to be in line with future IP address usage.

- Increase the use of e-Government initiatives to improve access to public services and greater accountability.

- To create greater awareness and advocacy for ICT security, cyberscurity, in particular cyber-crime, both within the public and private sectors.

3.  On **Access and Diversity**, ensure that the universal access policies are implemented to improve affordable Internet access in rural and undeserved areas, not forgetting PWD's (Persons with Disability)

Also;

- To develop a framework to encourage the integration of ICT in the educational curriculum.

- Establish ICT centres to give people access to Internet resources within their local communities.

4. On **Managing Critical Internet Resources;**

- To develop and collaborate in order to establish Local /Regional Internet Exchange Points that will help improve our Internet access

- Sub-Regional participants to encourage the use of country code Top Level Domain names.

- Actively encourage West African government participation in the GAC (Governmental Advisory Committee- ICANN) meetings and law enforcement groups on domain names to ensure common West African voice in Internet.

- Actively encourage local content development.

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Freetown, Sierra Leone

Wednesday, July 4, 2012